

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 009717  
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO OAU COLLECTIVE

XMT AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 009717

FOL ADDIS ABABA 0155 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO PRETORIA  
USUN TRIPOLI CAPE TOWN JAN 12, 1978 REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 0155

FOR EMBASSY CAPE TOWN

DEPT PASS OAU COLLECTIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AORG, OAU, XA

SUBJ: OAU COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING AND OTHER OAU MATTERS

REF: A. STATE 005559 (NOTAL), B. ADDIS ABABA 0104 (NOTAL),  
C. LIBREVILLE 0065 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: OAU COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING WILL BE HELD  
IN TRIPOLI, LIBYA, ON FEB 20-28. WHILE AGENDA NOT  
FINALIZED YET, OAU INFORMATION OFFICER'S SPECULATION SI-  
MILAR TO THAT OF GABONESE MOFA OFFICIAL (REF C), I.E.,  
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BUDGETARY, ORGANIZATIONAL, AND CURRENT OAU POLITICAL PROB-  
LEMS. OAU RIVALRIES BETWEEN SEC GEN ETEKI AND ASST. SEC GEN  
KAMANDA INCREASING AS JULY ELECTIONS APPROACH. OAU ENCOUR-  
AGED BY ETHIOPIA/SUDAN MEDIATION EFFORTS TO DATE BUT CUR-  
RENT BUDGETARY MEETING HAVING SOME DIFFICULTY REACHING SUC-  
CESSFUL CONCLUSION. END SUMMARY.

1. OAU INFORMATION OFFICER STATED COUNCIL OF MINISTERS (COM) MEETING WILL BE HELD IN TRIPOLI, LIBYA, FROM FEB 20-28. COM WILL BE PRECEDED BY 30TH OAU LIBERATION COMMITTEE MEETING FEB 13-18. AGENDA OF MAJOR ISSUES FOR DEBATE NOT YET DRAFTED IN FINAL, BUT INFO OFFICER SPECULATED NORMAL POLITICAL QUESTIONS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA LIBERATION, REPORT OF OAU ETHIO/SUDAN AD HOC MEDIATION COMMISSION, REPORTS ON WESTERN SAHARA AND ETHIO/SOMALIA DISPUTES, AND BUDGETARY PROBLEMS CURRENTLY UNDER DISCUSSION WILL BE ON AGENDA. OAU OFFICIAL WILL OBTAIN COPY OF PRELIMINARY AGENDA FOR EMBASSY AS SOON AS IT BECOMES AVAILABLE, WHICH WE WILL FORWARD. OAU OFFICIAL, WHO HAS BEEN VERY ACCURATE IN PAST, STATED THERE WOULD NOT BE ANY OAU MEETING ON SAHARA BEFORE KHARTOUM SUMMIT IN JULY.

2. ON OTHER OAU MATTERS, INFO OFFICER STATED THAT FORTHCOMING ELECTIONS FOR OAU SECGEN AT JULY OAU MEETINGS IN KHARTOUM HAVE INTENSIFIED RIVALRIES BETWEEN PRESENT OAU SECGEN ETEKI AND OAU ASST. SECGEN KAMANDA WA KAMANDA. SPECULATION IS THAT ETEKI WILL RETAIN HIS POSITION BECAUSE OF GREATER SUPPORT AMONG AFRICANS.

3. OAU IS ABOUT TO ACCEPT OFFER MADE BY ETHIOPIAN HEAD OF STATE MENGISTU TWO MONTHS AGO TO UTILIZE  
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RADIO VOICE OF REVOLUTIONARY ETHIOPIA TO BROADCAST OAU NEWS AND REPORTS TO THE CONTINENT. OAU WILL PROBABLY BROADCAST TWO HOURS PER DAY.

4. FURTHER BACKGROUND ON RECENT VISIT TO ETHIOPIA AND SUDAN BY SIERRA LEONE SPECIAL ENVOY AMB EYA MBAYO (REF B); ONE OF PURPOSES WAS TO CONVINCE MENGISTU OF NEED TO ATTEND JULY OAU SUMMIT IN KHARTOUM SO THAT PRIVATE MEETING WITH SUDANESE PRESIDENT NIMEIRY COULD BE ARRANGED. OAU OFFICIAL DID NOT SPECULATE UPON CHANCES OF MEETING ACTUALLY TAKING PLACE, BUT DID COMMENT ON HATRED BOTH LEADERS HAVE FOR EACH OTHER, WHICH ONLY THINLY VEILED. DESPITE THIS, OAU OFFICIAL THOUGHT ETHIO-SUDAN COMMISSION HAD SOME CHANCE FOR SUCCESS AND CHARACTERIZED RELATIONS AS IMPROVING.

5. CURRENT OAU BUDGETARY MEETING IN ADDIS, WHICH BEGAN DEC 27, WAS SCHEDULED TO CLOSE PAST FRI., JAN 6. HOWEVER, SERIOUS DIFFERENCES AMONG MEMBERS ABOUT BUDGETARY CUTS, ARREARAGES, AND EMBEZZLEMENT CASE HAVE DELAYED CONCLUSION OF MEETING UNTIL JAN 12 OR 13.

SOME MEMBERS WISH TO CUT OAU BUDGET DRASTICALLY BE-  
CAUSE THERE SOME FEELING IT NOT SPENDING MONEY IT  
DOES NOT HAVE EFFECTIVELY. IN FOREFRONT OF THOSE WHO  
WISH TO CUT BUDGET ARE THOSE MEMBERS WHO IN ARREARS OF  
PAYMENTS. ONE EXAMPLE GIVEN WAS CENTRAL AFRICAN  
EMPIRE WHICH HAS NOT PAID SINCE 1965. EMBEZZLEMENT  
CASE INVOLVES AN OAU OFFICER WHO TRIED TO ABSCOND WITH  
US\$200,000 BUT WHO NOW IMPRISONED HERE IN ADDIS.  
ANOTHER ELEMENT OF DRAWN-OUT BUDGETARY MEETING HAS  
BEEN ETEKI/KAMANDA FACTIONALISM, BUT IT NOT CLEAR  
WHAT THEIR POSITIONS ARE ON BUDGET. MATHERON UNQUOTE  
CHRISTOPHER

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